





November 2005 is National Adoption Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p align="center">Visit the National Adoption Month Website http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/adoptmonth/index.cfm</p> <p align="center">This website is a joint initiative between the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse and AdoptUsKids, both services of the Children's Bureau.</p>					
		<p>1 Kick off National Adoption Month by contacting your local TV station or newspaper and encouraging them to run the free "Answering the Call" Public Service Advertisements (PSAs) about adoption.</p>	<p>2 Plan an activity to celebrate National Adoption Day, November 19, with your adoptive family support group.</p>	<p>3 Contact your local public library to request they include stories about adoption in their story hour for children during November.</p>	<p>4 Ask your place of worship to offer a prayer or blessing for children who wait for families.</p>	<p>5 Create a life book with your child, or work on updating his or her life book together.</p>
<p>6 Contact clergy of area churches to see if your group can present at or distribute information at their church. Be sure to include Spanish-speaking churches or parishes.</p>	<p>7 Spend time learning more about the children waiting for families by visiting the AdoptUsKids website at: http://www.adoptuskids.org/.</p>	<p>8 Learn about the adoption process by reading the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse General Information Packets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting Started - Funding Adoption. 	<p>9 Meet with your child's teacher to discuss adoption, and ways to incorporate adoption-friendly assignments into the curriculum.</p>	<p>10 Post National Adoption Month posters, available through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption website in your workplace. Present a brownbag session on how to adopt for your coworkers.</p>	<p>11 Contact the organizers of your local National Adoption Day celebration to find out how you can get involved by volunteering your time or donating materials.</p>	<p>12 Plan a neighborhood fundraiser with members of your adoptive family support group and donate the proceeds to a local public adoption agency for items such as suitcases for children in foster care.</p>
<p>13 Contact your place of worship and see how they might help local agencies in their effort to recruit families for children.</p>	<p>14 If you have adopted transracially, identify role models from your child's heritage. Plan to invite a friend or neighbor of your child's race over for dinner.</p>	<p>15 Use the Adoption Assistance by State search on the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse website to find out about adoption assistance programs and postadoption services available in your State.</p>	<p>16 Develop a creative way to illustrate the 119,000 children in the U.S. foster care system waiting for adoptive families (e.g., display 119 dolls, each representing 1,000 children who wait for families).</p>	<p>17 Start a journal for your adopted child. Write at least one entry a month and plan to give it to your child when he or she is an adult.</p>	<p>18 Develop a family mission statement. Make sure it incorporates important values from all the cultures represented among family members.</p>	<p>19 National Adoption Day! Attend or support one of the more than 200 events throughout the country on National Adoption Day.</p>
<p>20 Adoption requires a gigantic leap of faith. Don't be afraid to take the leap and bring other families along with you!</p>	<p>21 Plan a summer gathering of your adoptive parent support group at a water park. Use the event to celebrate adoption and recruit new families.</p>	<p>22 Collect new socks and underwear to donate to your local public child welfare agency for teens in foster care.</p>	<p>23 Plan a candlelight vigil on the courthouse steps and call out first names of children waiting to be adopted in your area to raise awareness about the number of children waiting for families.</p>	<p>24 THANKSGIVING During the Thanksgiving meal, give each family member the opportunity to give thanks and remember the people in the past and the present that have been involved in their lives. Light a candle to honor and remember your child's birth family members.</p>	<p>25 Plan a special celebration on the anniversary of each child's arrival in your family as well as on their birthday(s).</p>	<p>26 If your children are of a different race than you, learn what it means to be a transracial/transcultural family. Read Clearinghouse factsheet "Transracial and Transcultural Adoption."</p>
<p>27 Offer to share your adoption story (successes as well as any struggles) with prospective adoptive parents at a local agency to provide families with a realistic view of what to expect in the process.</p>	<p>28 When times get tough, contact a postadoption counselor from your adoption agency or someone from your church or synagogue.</p>	<p>29 Respect the role of your child's biological parents. Your child will always have some kind of ongoing relationship with them, whether real or imagined.</p>	<p>30 Consider ways you might keep the issue of children waiting for adoptive families in the public's eye. Again encourage your local TV station or newspaper to run the adoption PSAs.</p>		